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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
CHINA

IPF:(1987-91) $176 600 000
(CPR/91/G41) - GEF Biodiversity Pre-investment Project

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	15 January 1992
Expected duration:	15 months
Proposed executing agency:	World Bank
Government implementing agency:	National Environment Protection Agency (Ministry of Forestry)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 1 673 000 Source of funds: GEF
Total UNDP budget:	$ 1 673 000

Project background

China which is rich in biological diversity is listed as one of the mega-diversity countries in the world. In addition to containing a full range of major habitats, China also contains 10 percent of the world's plants and animal species. These are spread out in pockets over a large area, covering a variety of climatic and geographical regimes. A systematic assessment of theses and the immediate initiation of protection measures in particularly vulnerable areas is an expensive undertaking. Over the years, increasing population pressures and development activities have had a significant negative impact on China's biodiversity. According to the Chinese Academy of Sciences, approximately 200 plant species are believed to have become extinct and an estimated 5,000 species endangered in recent years due to deforestation, particularly in areas rich in plant species.

The Ministry of Forestry has jurisdiction of approximately 400 nature reserves of various habitat types and of wildlife in China. The effective management of these reserves and associated wildlife has been hampered by insufficiently trained staff, inadequate scientific knowledge and lack of basic infrastructure and equipment for protection purposes. Financing from the Pre-investment Facility is being sought to prepare a biodiversity conservation component of a national forestry project that is in the World Bank's lending programme for fiscal year 1994. It is anticipated that financing from the GEF for up to (US)$20 million will be sought for the conservation component, with the rest of the Bank project being financed mainly by the Bank and the Government of China. The GEF conservation component will improve the protection and management of selected key nature reserves, institutional strengthening and training.

To prepare the GEF component, a two-part pre-investment feasibility study is required. Firstly, a National Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is needed to identify and prepare an overall strategy and plan of action for protecting China's biological diversity. The BAP would be an operational plan which specifies in detail the actions needed, responsibilities and authorities required, funding needed, and specific timetables. The BAP will serve as a blueprint for future funding by both the Chinese Government and international donor community. In view of the time frame for this effort, the BAP should be viewed as part of an ongoing programme that will be expanded and altered over time as additional information become available as conditions change. Secondly, based on the BAP and other current conservation projects in China, an investment programme for strengthening the protected areas system needs to be prepared and the costs estimated. This programme will form the basis for an appraisal mission by the World Bank.

Description of project

The pre-investment feasibility study consists of two parts: Part A: Preparation of an action plan for protection of biological diversity, and Part B: Preparation of an investment programme for strengthening the protected areas system including a selected number of high priority demonstration nature reserves.

Part A is to identify, using internationally accepted scientific criteria, sites of biological diversity with national and global significance, to assess current conservation and research efforts and institutional responsibilities, to develop an overall strategy, formulate a biodiversity protection programme and recommend changes in the policy, institutional and

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[1/] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

technical framework, and to develop plans including optimal institutional arrangements for an ongoing national biodiversity action planning process which includes a long-term monitoring and evaluation system to measure changes in biodiversity over time.

Part B is to prepare an investment programme to strengthen the capability of the MOF to manage its system of nature reserves and wildlife resources sustainably and to insure that protection of biodiversity became an integral and important part of the forestry sector. It will include (1) a review of the status of protected areas system managed by MOF (a current World Wildlife Fund project); (2) identification of priority sites based on criteria established under Part A followed by selection of several key reserves as demonstration models based on the international selection criteria as well as GEF criteria of innovation and demonstration value; and (3) more detailed assessment of existing laws, regulations, and policies; institutional arrangements; and human resource needs.

Inputs

Part A: UNDP will provide 16 work-months for international consultants for BAP; 24 trips for both conducting training workshops and individual consultancies as needed; two work-months for international consultants for follow-on activities to the BAP; 30 local consultants for 12 work-months; travel and living expenses for selected field work; 192 work-days for interpreters; four workshops/conferences; two-week training study tour; 50 consultation meetings with local groups; final reporting and contingency costs. Part B: UNDP will provide 30 work-months for international consultants; international travel for five consultants; 30 full-time Chinese consultants for 16 work-weeks for over eight-month period; 700 work-days for interpreters; field work for about 4000 days; costs for maps, local surveys, vehicle rentals and others; costs for micro-computers, observation equipment, field gear; reporting, contingency and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	1 233 500
Training	107 000
Equipment	50 000
Miscellaneous	130 000
Contingencies	152 500
Total	1 673 000

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